

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment is submitted simultaneous with the filing of a 37 CFR 1.53(b) continuation application on pending Application Serial No. 09/384,182, filed August 27, 1999.

The title and abstract have been amended to better reflect the invention to which the present application is directed.

The specification has been amended to correct minor editorial defects.

As originally filed, the parent '182 application included claims 1-28. Claims 2-28 have been canceled in the filing request for the present continuation application. Claim 1 is canceled and new claims 2-51 are added by this preliminary amendment. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number, in order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 12-0429 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LALOS & KEEGAN



Alfred A. Stadnicki
Registration No. 30,226

1146 Nineteenth Street, N.W.
Fifth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036-3703
Telephone: 202-887-5555
Facsimile: 202-296-1682
DATE: August 18, 2000

004280" 9594960